



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori Pelletier
Secretary-Treasurer, Connecticut AFL-CIO
Thursday, March 8, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Harp and Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations committee. My name is Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Secretary - Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, and I am here to testify on behalf of our 900 affiliated local unions who represent over 200,000 union members from all 169 cities and towns.

H.B. No. 5016 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

On behalf of our affiliates I want to thank the entire Appropriations Committee for their tireless work on all things related to the budget. We want to express our reservations about the mid term budget cuts as it relates to retiree premium payments. Under this proposal payments would go up more than 20% or approximately \$350 per year. For retirees on fixed income this would be a devastating predicament.

Local school boards would also be impacted by \$110 in diminished subsidies per retiree. This is further complicated by the fact that retired teachers do not receive Social Security benefits. But let's remember that they did however pay into the retirement health care which they now are being asked to contribute more, and retiree healthcare does not include dental or vision.

Again we understand that the budget needs adjusting, however, when workers retire they are very concerned where each and every dollar goes. By changing the rules of their retirement after they have signed the paperwork, even if that was twenty years ago is just plain unfair and wrong. We urge your support of retirees and protecting their healthcare coverage that they for so long paid into.

Thank you for holding this public hearing and if you have any questions I would be happy to address them.

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